

1 47. (**Amended Herein - Twice Amended**) A method for permanent

2 decorative enhancement of a polyethylene surface of a molded polyethylene article,
3 which method comprises the steps of:

4 (a) incorporating a decorative enhancement composition to said
5 polyethylene surface wherein said decorative enhancement
6 composition consists essentially of:

7 (1) a liquid carrier that provides the decorative enhancement
8 composition with a consistency and viscosity necessary for
9 application by liquid methods of application; and

10 (2) a first mixture consisting essentially of:

11 (A) a colorant to impart a surface color; and

12 (B) a second mixture consisting essentially of:

13 (i) a binder to provide adhesion of the decorative
14 enhancement composition to said polyethylene
15 surface; and

16 (ii) a particulate thermoplastic powder that is adapted
17 to fuse into and form a permanent bond of the
18 decorative enhancement composition as a
19 whole with the molded polyethylene article; and

20 (b) heating said decorative enhancement composition and said molded
21 polyethylene article to produce a molded polyethylene article
22 having a permanent decoratively enhanced surface characterized
23 by a colorant on and in said polyethylene surface of said molded

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24 polyethylene article.

1 48. The method of Claim 47 wherein said molded polyethylene article is a
2 preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 49. The method of Claim 48 wherein said incorporating step is
2 accomplished by applying said decorative enhancement composition to said preformed
3 molded polyethylene article.

1 50. The method of Claim 49 wherein said heating step is accomplished by
2 heating said decorative enhancement composition and said preformed molded
3 polyethylene article to a temperature and for a time sufficient to fuse said decorative
4 enhancement composition to said preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 51. The method of Claim 47 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 20 to 90
2 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 52. The method of Claim 47 wherein said first mixture of said colorant,
2 said binder, and said particulate thermoplastic powder collectively comprise 10 to 80
3 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 53. The method of Claim 52 wherein said colorant comprises 9 to 50
2 weight percent of said first mixture and said binder and said particulate thermoplastic
3 powder collectively comprises 50 to 91 weight percent of said first mixture.

1 54. The method of Claim 53 wherein said binder comprises 30 to 70

2 weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from the group consisting of
3 hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic waxes, emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin-
4 esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins.

1 55. (Amended) The method of Claim 53 wherein said particulate
2 thermoplastic powder comprises 70 to 30 weight percent of said second mixture and is
3 selected from the group consisting of polyethelene, polypropylene, and ethylene-vinyl
4 acetate co-polymers wherein said powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle
5 size no greater than 140 microns diameter.
